



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 23, Number 3

August 2005

President's Corner

By: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

*** Editor's Note: Elisabeth was elected President of the Club and very shortly thereafter departed on a trip. First she competed in the National Senior Olympics and then proceeded on to participate in and represent our club at the American Volkssports Association Biennial Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Below is her report on the convention activities.*

The 14th Biennial American Volkssport Convention was held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey June 22 - 24. "Appetizer" events were held Saturday, June 18 at Shepherdstown, West Virginia and Saturday afternoon at Tarara Winery in Leesburg, Virginia.

Sunday, we "walked the walk" at the Crimea Mansion in Baltimore, Maryland and participated in the torchlight walk in the evening at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was dark and late following the wreath laying ceremony at the Washington, D.C. memorial. We were lost on our way back to the start/finish point! Fortunately, a D.C. patrol car was out looking for stragglers and we hopped in for a ride for the final two blocks. We caught the last train that night to the station where we had left our rental car. Lost again, two hours later at 2:30 A.M., after a close encounter with some deer in the suburbs of Gaithersburg, Maryland, we reached our motel.

Monday was an "open" day. Good thing because we really needed some rest. We managed to find the motel where we would be staying in Maple Shade, New Jersey. The "jug handles" were frustrating and hard to navigate but we managed to find the Hilton

Hotel in Cherry Hill to pick up credentials for the convention. The "jug handles" as they call them, are necessary for making left turns from one street to another. It requires turning right, usually going one or two blocks in a direction you have no desire to travel, in order to make your left turn!

Tuesday started with a walk in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania and Wednesday the convention officially began with workshops in the morning and a walk in Atlantic City in the afternoon. We opted to take the convention bus to Atlantic City. Enough "getting lost" already.

Thursday morning at 6 A.M. we walked 5 k of the Camden, New Jersey/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania walk. We had walked the Philie walk prior to the convention. A business session was held in the afternoon. Candidates for Regional Director and National Officers were introduced. A graduation ceremony was held for those who had completed their degrees in the College Campus Program. Fourteen people, including me, were awarded diplomas and photo frames for completing forty campus walks and becoming "Road Scholars." One gentleman was selected to be the valedictorian for completing 97 campus walks!

Friday morning found us at an early morning walk in Haddonfield followed by more workshops, regional meetings and a business session. Sun Country Striders was awarded an honorable mention ribbon and certificate for a black and white event brochure, publicity award 2005. Thank you Doyle!

The dessert events were held in Trenton, New Jersey on Saturday and Wilmington, Delaware on Sunday. We missed dessert! Hugh was rushed to the hospital at the crack of dawn Saturday following a heart attack. Three weeks later, he was

discharged from the hospital and we flew home. He's doing just fine and hopes to be volksmarching soon.

We hope to see everyone on the trails this fall. If you have any suggestions for new trails or club activities, please email or call any of your board members. ■

Annual General Membership Meeting

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Sun Country Striders, Ltd., was held on Saturday, 28 May 2005 at the Dynasty Chinese Restaurant. Although not nearly all members showed up, we did have 17 people who enjoyed a good meal and great company visiting with fellow members.



Christine Conway has a big smile as she prepares to enjoy her dessert at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

See Meeting on page 3



Sun Country Striders, Ltd., P. O. Box 6787, Las Cruces, NM 88006-6787
A member of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) in the
International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)



Meet and Get to Know Your New Club Vice-President! Robert Macklin



In March 1934 Robert Macklin was born into this world, at his uncle's farmhouse in Indiana, only 11 miles from town.

Later while living on the Indiana side of the Indiana Ohio state line, Robert attended school where one half of the school gym was in Ohio and the other half in Indiana, with one basketball player jumping center in Indiana and the other in Ohio.

Robert Graduated from High School in Geneva, Indiana (not Switzerland). He schooled with the Amish, who even today ride in open horse drawn buggies, and have no electricity. Amish are excellent carpenters and very trustworthy.

Robert has walked in countries around the world, EAST to WEST and ARCTIC to

ANTARCTIC. He has completed over 25,000 KM and 800 Events. Robert says, "I still am not up with Doyle and Randy." Robert got his start in the fitness exercise on 4 September 1982, when he ran in a 15 km (9.4 miles) race in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He finished third in the 40 to 49, age group. From there, you could say Robert was "off to the races." Although he has concentrated more on walking over the last few years, he can still leave much younger individuals in the dust. Robert comes by his running and walking honestly. His mother, Iva Stanford, a long time club member, says, "I always liked to run and I was a good jumper." At 91, Iva is no longer able to walk in volksmarches, but her thoughts are with the club.

Robert says, "Antarctica being the coldest place to walk, although I think Korea was just as cold." In May 2005 He was in the hottest place of all his walks, India. The picture of the panting Bengal tiger, **shown below**, will attest to the heat. Robert says, "The Tiger picture was taken from the back of an elephant, being on the ground was not permitted, for obvious reasons."

Robert spent most of his working career at White Sands Missile Range, and retired from there. He also was in the U. S. Army Reserve for many years and retired from the Reserves as well.

With great opportunities to travel in all seven Continents, his love for walking has brought him many wonderful experiences. You could say that he has walked the earth and has enjoyed every kilometer.



Board of Directors

Elected members:

Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis, President
Phone: 505-521-7304
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Robert Macklin, Vice-President
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Douglas Rennert Sr., Vice-President Trails
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Louis Bevacqua, Secretary
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Doyle Piland, Treasurer
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At-large members:

Randy Rannels, Member
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Joanne Poulos, Member
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Hugh Lewis, Member
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Below is a listing of our **UPCOMING EVENTS** for 2005. Mark your calendar and be sure to participate in all these events.

Sep 10 & 11, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Zia Middle School, Las Cruces, NM walk.

Oct 15 & 16, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Fort Selden, Radium Springs, NM walk.

Nov 19 & 20, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Walk at the La Viña Winery in La Union, New Mexico.

Dec 17, 5:00 PM ... Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The August/September 2005 issues of The American Wanderer lists the following IVV awards for local Volkssporters:

IVV Event Awards

Elsa Baker: 75 Events

Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis: 175 Events

Congratulations to Elsa and Elisabeth. Keep it up!

Meeting continued from page 1

As you can see from the club's leadership listing on page two, there have been some changes to that leadership. We look forward to working with the new officers.

As you know, Walter Baker had been the President for several years. After all those years, he has earned a break from that position. We all thank Walter for all he has done for the club and volkssports in the area. Walter won't be going anywhere, he has promised to stay involved. Thanks Walt.

In addition, Douglas Rennert agreed to accept the Vice-President Trails, taking Randy Rannels' place. Randy has held that position for many, many years. Before that, he served in several capacities, including President. Randy has agreed to remain on the Board as one of the three members at large appointed by the elected members. He will be helping Douglas learn the ropes with the trails. Thanks Randy for all your years of service, as well as your continued service.

Carol Gaines, who served on the board as an at large member, declined to serve another term for health reasons, although she will continue to contribute to the club's operation. We thank Carol for her service. ■



Frank Conway, sitting across the table from Christine, seems to be waiting for his dessert at the Annual General Membership Meeting.



Hugh Lewis and Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Note that Elisabeth has dessert similar to Christine, but Hugh is in the same situation as Frank.



Randy and Linden Rannels at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Note their nice Tee Shirts. Do you have your's yet. We still have them for sale.



Joy and Robert Macklin listen intently to something at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

**In Memory of
Robert A. Sutherland**

Long time club member, Robert Sutherland passed away Saturday, August 13, 2005. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Carol and the rest of his family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Robert A. Sutherland Scholarship Fund, Account #133131 at White Sands Federal Credit Union, PO Box 99, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004-0099.



Walter and Elsa Baker at the Annual General Membership Meeting.



Louis Bevacqua Marye Wagoner at the Annual General Membership Meeting.



Bob and Carol Gaines toast you at the Annual General Membership Meeting.



Rita Rivera and Catherine Powers at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

New Vice-President Trails, Douglas Rennert was not at the meeting. He and his wife Janice were off in Texas busy becoming grandparents. Congratulations to them.

new balance 
Official Shoe Sponsor of the AVA and its member Clubs. Quality, comfortable walking shoes at reasonable prices.

In the photo at right, Elisabeth Johnson and Hugh Lewis at the wedding ceremony in Spokane, Washington at the KHQ-TV Patio with live TV on May 1, 2005 .

From an article in **The Spokesman-Review**, we get details of their wedding day.

The bride wore white – white shorts, white running shoes and a white veil attached to her white visor.

Then, minutes after her second wedding, 75- year-old Elisabeth Johnson walked her first Bloomsday. The groom, 78-year-old Hugh Lewis, stayed by her side in a tuxedo T-shirt and top hat. A wedding party of six joined them on the 12 kilometer route.

“We’re just so happy for her,” said Johnson’s daughter, P.J. Watters. “She deserves to be happy.”

Johnson and Lewis met in New Mexico where she lives in Las Cruces and he lives in Rio Rancho, near Albuquerque. Lewis saw Johnson’s profile on a dating service.

“I felt compelled to send her an electronic wink,” he said.

Johnson’s first husband died about 40

years ago, Watters said, and Lewis recently lost his first wife. After she quit smoking at age 70, Johnson took up walking, cycling and archery and has competed in the Senior Olympics.

The two arranged to meet in Santa Fe for a volksmarch. Lewis had more than exercise on his mind. “Those volksmarches are an excellent way to talk and get acquainted,” he said.

Soon, Johnson was calling her daughter, and telling her to reserve May 1 for a wedding.

“So she said, ‘Mom, Bloomsday is May 1,’ ‘Why don’t you come to Spokane?’”

Watters is a 23-year Bloomsday veteran and she’d been urging her mother to come up for the race for years. This time, the invitation worked. After initially planning a midcourse ceremony, Watters was persuaded to move the wedding to the KHQ patio downtown, and the nuptials were aired live.

As Johnson and Lewis took their vows under an arch of balloons, TV cameras joined the family video cameras to capture the

event.

Members of the wedding party cheered and blew bubbles as the newlyweds climbed into a pedicab for a ride back to the starting line.

As they headed off into their new life together, Johnson and Lewis each wore two signs pinned to their T-shirts.

On the fronts were their bib numbers.

On the backs; “Just Married.”

